



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

June 12, 2012

Mr. Colby C. Zemaitis, City Engineer
City of Wilmington
1165 S. Water Street
Wilmington, IL 60481

**RE: RidgPort Logistic Development, Wilmington, Will County
Endangered Species Consultation Program
EcoCAT Review #1206742**

Dear Mr. Zemaitis:

The Department has received your submission of this proposed action for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

Most of the protected natural resources identified by EcoCAT are located north and east of the Kankakee River and are not “in the vicinity” of the proposed action for purposes of consultation. The Hitts Siding Prairie Nature Preserve and INAI site is located nearly one mile southeast of the proposed action; it is the Department’s biological opinion the proposed action is unlikely to adversely modify conditions with the Nature Preserve.

However, the proposed action is located in the vicinity of a number of other protected resources; it is the Department’s biological opinion the proposed action is likely to adversely modify the Kankakee River INAI Site and essential habitat for the following State-listed endangered and threatened species: the Franklin’s Ground Squirrel, the Loggerhead Shrike, the Blanding’s Turtle, the Black Sandshell Mussel, the Sheepnose Mussel (a federally-listed species), the Spike Mussel, the Purple Wartyback Mussel, and the River Redhorse.

With the exception of the Franklin’s Ground Squirrel and the Loggerhead Shrike, all of these species occupy the Kankakee River. Most of the proposed action area drains to the Kankakee River. The potential for poor water quality resulting from sedimentation, and siltation during construction, and from other pollutants during operations would degrade essential habitat for these species.

The Department recommends that all portions of the facility’s construction and operation employ state-of-the-art storm water management technologies to maintain or improve water quality discharging into the Kankakee River. Such technologies include bio-swales, infiltration

areas, artificial wetlands, border plantings of native vegetation, and compartmentalized on-site detention basins in the final design, and extensive use of erosion control techniques such as silt-fencing, temporary vegetation, matting, and rip-rap during construction.

While the nearest known colony of the Franklin's Ground Squirrel lies north of the River and most of the proposed action area is tilled agricultural ground, sufficient habitat exists to support the Franklin Ground's Squirrel. *The site should be surveyed or trapped to determine whether this species is present prior to disturbance.* If present, an Incidental Take Authorization from the Department may be necessary.

The Loggerhead Shrike is present in the Des Plaines Conservation Area, and appropriate habitat exists with the project area. *The Department recommends a survey for active Shrike nests within the project boundaries.* If a nest is present, the area may not be disturbed until after Shrikes have migrated south for the year; disturbance when the Shrikes are present will require an Incidental Take Authorization from the Department.

Consultation on the part of the Department is terminated, unless the City desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), the Village must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether it will:

- Allow the action to proceed as originally proposed;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify which measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action. Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith M. Shank". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Keith M. Shank
Impact Assessment Section
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
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